

Ditch – Gully – Erosion Work

2000

As several years of restoration and reconstruction efforts on the Refuge have begun to bear fruit, the Friends of the Prairie Learning Center sought to become more directly involved in the restoration process. The site selected was a 20 acre parcel along the east end of the Tallgrass Trail. Work on the Friends' Prairie was initiated in 1998 and has since become a premier restoration site.

On the second Saturday of every month, the Friends of the Prairie Learning Center held a stewardship event at the Refuge led by a member of biology staff. Participation ranged from 5 to 50 people who usually worked from 9:00 a.m. to approximately 1:00 p.m. The activities varied based on the time of year and included exotic tree cutting/removal, exotic invasive removal, native seed collection, seed cleaning, seed sowing, gully repair, and orchid labeling. These fun work days give Friends the opportunity to understand the challenges of ecological restoration of the Refuge first hand, and not only assists the restoration process, but provides a foundation for interpretation of the Refuge to the public they address on our behalf.

2008

October 2008

Staff met to devise a plan for Coneflower gully restoration and planting. Boot, Hager, and Debruin will work on contouring and laying erosion control fabric prior to planting with prairie seed this winter. This piece will finally come out of the farming program.

November 2008

Boot worked on smoothing the quarter mile ditch at Coneflower prairie in preparation for the erosion cloth and restoration planning later this winter.

2009

April 2009

Hager, Taylor, and Viste-Sparkman worked with Central College students on their service learning day to put in erosion barriers in the coneflower waterway.
